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Short history of the Institute of Virology,
Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

The first virus laboratory in Bratislava was set up on January 1948 as a part of Department of Microbiology and Epidemiology, State Institute of Hygiene.

The small virus unit served as a diagnostic laboratory for the Public Health Service of the whole Slovakia. It was ~~not~~ necessary to train graduated people as well as technical staffs, to learn new methods, to supply laboratories with necessary equipment. Diagnostic of influenza, mumps, lymphocytic choriomeningitis and later /1951/ of the tick borne encephalitis was established. From 1949-1951 the number of laboratory rooms raised from 2 to 8. The first staffs counted 2 graduated people and 2 technicians. Courses on virology were given for microbiologists working in the district and municipal laboratories of the Public Health Service. They slowly created small virological diagnostic laboratories in their institutions. The idea was to equip every district with a virus diagnostic laboratory. This was almost fulfilled until now. They are few districts without this service.

In 1952, the previous State Institute of Hygiene was reorganized and new Institutes were established, among them the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Prague and a sister Institute in Bratislava. Both of them had a Virus laboratory. More epidemiology was done and ^{we} ~~you~~ started with the field work discovering the natural foci of various infections: tick borne encephalitis, WEE, LCM, rickettsioses, leptospirosis, some parasitic infections a.o.

In 1951 was set up Institute for Biology with 3 Departments, one of them was Virology. Some of the people trained joined D. Blaskovic and some were left for the Virus laboratory of the Institute Epidemiology and Microbiology. In November 1952,

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the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences was created and from January 1 st, 1953 the Virus Department of the Institute for Biology started as the Institute of Virology with staffs ^{un/}around 30. people. The other two departments joined the Slovak Academy of Sciences. ⁱⁿThis Academy was created June 1953.

The main problems of the new Institute for Virology in 1953 were:

To furnish the new Institute in the new building with necessary equipment, especially for the morphological and chemical laboratories,

to train people on virology, biochemistry, biophysics . physical-chemistry for the purposes of the Institute as well as to train people in virology for other institutions,

to realize the scientific collaboration with other virological laboratories in the country.

Since 1953 up today rose the staffs of the Institute from around 30 people to more ~~than~~ 100, with 30 graduated men with various degrees M.D., ~~Ph~~ D, ScD, Veterinarians a.o. There are around 60 laboratories; ~~in~~ 1 1/2 floor of the main building and 3 other units.

The Institute is divided into 4 Laboratories:

- 1/ Influenza laboratory
- 2/ Neurotropic "
- 3/ Rickettsial "
- 4/ Plant virus "

The first laboratory is working on principles of influenza pathogenesis and immunity, there are 13 graduated people working within this group .

The second laboratory is ~~now~~ concerned mostly with tick borne encephalitis infection, partly in ~~now~~

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and coxsackie. There are 12 graduated men in the group.

The third laboratory is working on Q fever with 2 graduated men.

The fourth laboratory is working on yellow^h plant viruses and has 3 graduated men.

113 scientific papers and 3 books were published from the Institute since 1953. A fourth book was sent to the Editor.

In Bratislava there are two other virological laboratories: Virus Department of the Intitute of Epidemiology and Microbiology /Dr.V.Bardoš/ and Virus Laboratory of the District Hygienic and Epidemiological Service /Dr. F. Schulz/.

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